Issue 29— Winter 2017

OTCnet Connect

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Over the Counter Division

2017 Annual User Recertification is Now Underway

The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requires all Treasury Web Application users to complete an annual recertification process. User recertification for 2017 will occur from March to May.

Below are reminders about the process and user account maintenance:

- Starting in March 2017, your agency PLSA or LSA will contact you to initiate the process for your agency.
- After recertification is complete, you will receive an email from ITIM. **No further action is needed.**
- Any OTCnet account that is de-certified will be deleted.
- OTCnet accounts that have been inactive for 90 days will be deactivated.

Contact your agency PLSA or LSA if you have any questions or concerns about the annual user recertification process.

Release 2.4.1 & 2.4.2 Recap

The OTCnet Team has been hard at work this winter developing and deploying enhancements to the OTCnet Application. In January 2017, Release 2.4.1 was deployed and included permanent resolution of a performance delay some users were experiencing when using OTCnet.

In February 2017, Release 2.4.2 was deployed and contained the following enhancements:
- Implementation of an automated control to retry a check if it initially fails in the saving process.
- Implementation of a report governor to end the process of pulling an OTCnet report if it takes longer than fifteen minutes to run.

Release 2.5 On Deck

With 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 successfully deployed, attention now turns to Release 2.5, which is set to arrive in Summer 2017. This Release will introduce several new enhancements, including unveiling of the OTCnet Local Bridge (OLB). This new component of OTCnet will eliminate the need for Java on local workstations for accessing the Application and will provide a more streamlined user experience for completing agency business operations.

Additional information on the new OLB and Release 2.5 will be forthcoming as we move into Spring and Summer 2017.

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Disaster Recovery Exercise Notification

The Disaster Recovery Exercise (DRE) is an important maintenance event that ensures the OTCnet Application is available to agencies and users if there is an interruption to the OTCnet Production Environment.

The 2017 DRE will occur on March 25th and will require no actions from users. As the outage window approaches, the OTCnet Team will reminder users.

Check Capture Conversion Initiative

In Fall 2016, Fiscal Service began requesting that all eligible checks, if possible, be processed and settled electronically within the OTCnet Application.

Electronic Check Capture allows for easy electronic processing of personal and non-personal checks.

Shifting away from Deposit Reporting eliminates the need for costly carriers, armored car services, or postage required to mail checks.

Please reach out to a representative of the OTCnet Deployment Team to learn more about this initiative and transition to electronic check capture today!

Take the 2017 OTCnet User/IT Survey

We need your input! Please take **ten minutes** to answer the 2017 User Survey.

Your feedback will help the OTCnet Team better understand agency business processing needs and policies.

Click the link below to participate: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017otcnetsurvey

Review Your Agency Group Policy Settings

As a reminder your agency may need to adjust local Group Policy Setting to reflect the enhanced system requirements of the OTCnet Application. If your agency is still performing the F12 work around process on a local terminal in lieu of adjusting the Group Policy Setting, please reach out to your IT Department and request that the Group Policy settings be modified to include the following:

- **Disable Compatibility View Mode**
- **Disable Enterprise Mode (IE 11)**
- **Update Group Policy to ensure that your IE browser is not emulating IE 7, 8, or 9**

If there is a Group Policy setting that is emulating IE 7, 8, or 9, you may need to update your workstation configuration settings each time you access OTCnet. Only after this change is implemented will you be able to access OTCnet and ensure that your agency's daily business processes run smoothly.
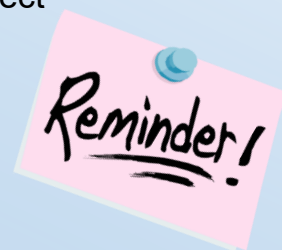
OTC Kiosk: Upcoming Design Webinars

The OTC Kiosk is envisioned to be a new customizable collections option to help agencies conduct daily business operations.

Sign up today for a 60-minute interactive OTC Kiosk Agency Design webinar at 2:00 PM EST on any of the dates listed below.

Remaining Spring 2017 Design Session Dates
Tues., March 21, 2017
Thurs., March 23, 2017
Tues., March 28, 2017
Thurs., March 30, 2017
Tues., April 4, 2017

Contact the OTCnet Deployment Team with any questions about the OTC Kiosk Project or to register for a Design session.

OTCnet Peak Processing Period March - June 2017

Users should be advised that the OTCnet Application is entering its annual peak processing period, which runs this year from late **March until the end of June 2017**.

To ensure that batches are processed the same business day, The OTCnet Team asks that agencies approve and upload batches in OTCnet by **8:00pm ET (20:00).**

All batches that are approved and uploaded after that time are subject to processing the following business day. In addition, the OTCnet Team recommends dividing large groups of checks into smaller batches to ensure processing without issue.